

Graduation Plan

Master of Science Architecture, Urbanism & Building Sciences



Graduation Plan: Architecture Track

Personal information	
Name	Małgorzata Łysik
Student number	5847184

Studio		
Name / Theme	Borders & Territories/Transient Liquidities along the New Silk Road III	
Main mentor	Oscar Rommens	architecture
Second mentor	Pierre Jennen	building technology
Argumentation of choice of the studio	Studio deals with current geopolitical issues and their relevance to the field of architecture. The format of the studio allows for exploration of own interest within the themes and areas given by the program. Studio prioritizes a process-oriented approach to design. There is much emphasis on experimentation and broadening the understanding of the role of the discipline itself.	

Graduation project	
Title of the graduation project	Architectural "body without organs." Carnavalesque as an opportunity for systemic transgressions.
Goal	
Location:	El Chorrillio neighborhood, Panama City, Panama
The posed problem,	El Chorrillo is currently one of the most impoverished neighborhoods in Panama City with a high crime rate. Its landscape consists of neglected buildings in different state of ruin, most of which are nevertheless inhabited despite safety and health risks. The infrastructure is scarce and in very bad state, with rain sewage covering the streets and malfunctioning waste management. Despite the technical problems, it is a densely inhabited and busy area, with plenty of local businesses and lively music playing on every street corner from cafes, bars, balconies or car trunks.
research questions and	How can the 'safety-valve' institutions within the city become not a reinforcement of unjust system but rather a transgressive practice that builds sense of community and motivates local engagement?
design assignment in which these result.	Designing a carnivalesque experience of architecture which unmask the systemic problems in the built environment.
Process	
Method description	
Research into history and socio-economic circumstances of the district and its inhabitants is a starting point for the project. Informed by the investigation of Mikhail Bakhtin's idea of 'carnavalesque', project further analyses the 'safety-valve' institutions within the site and their role in the mechanisms of state control. Study of Francis Bacons paintings and their reading by philosopher Gilles Deleuze become interpretative tools for the 'deep mapping' of the collapsing architecture and infrastructure within the	

area. What Deleuze calls 'body without organs' in Bacon's paintings is being translated into architecture through study of decay and transgressive appropriation in the district. The project proposes interventions based on Bakhtin's idea of carnivalesque, in order to, through temporary suspension of norms, transgress socio-economic imbalances. Grotesque, humor and the uncanny are applied to unmask the corrupted state and upset the current power structure.

Literature and general practical references

Literature:

Bakhtin, Mikhail. *Rabelais and His World*. Translated by Helene Iswolsky. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1984.

Danow, David K. *The Spirit of Carnival. Magical Realism and the Grotesque*. The University Press of Kentucky, 2004.

Deleuze, Gilles. *Francis Bacon. The logic of sensation*. Translated by Daniel W. Smith. London: Continuum, 2003.

Deleuze, Gilles and Guattari, Felix. *Anti-Oedipus. Capitalism and Schizophrenia*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1983.

Haraway, Donna. "A Cyborg Manifesto: Science, Technology, and Socialist-Feminism in the Late Twentieth Century." In *The Cybercultures Reader*, edited by David Bell and Barbara M. Kennedy, 291-324. New York: Routledge, 2001.

Kristeva, Julia. *Powers of Horror. An Essay on Abjection*. Translated by Leon S. Roudiez. New York: Columbia University Press, 1982.

Practical references:

Gordon Matta-Clark, interventions with built structures

Rebecca Horn, art pieces expanding human body

carnival practices Panama and around the world

Reflection

1. What is the relation between your graduation (project) topic, the studio topic (if applicable), your master track (A,U,BT,LA,MBE), and your master programme (MSc AUBS)?
2. What is the relevance of your graduation work in the larger social, professional and scientific framework.

1. The project is set in El Chorrillo district of Panama City, within the area of studio's interest. Economically and infrastructurally neglected, the neighborhood becomes a crucial site for the study of socio-economic power imbalances within Panama City. The history of the district is tied to the building of the Canal and colonial history of the country. Thus the study of this localities touches upon topics that have international significance and are relevant to studio's focus on geopolitics and their influence on architecture. Furthermore, as a project within the master track in Architecture, it advances the architectural design by investigating experimental ways of dealing with social and technical problems recognized within the chosen context. By incorporating insights from theoretical humanities and art, it contributes to broadening the architectural theory. Moreover, the research on technical aspects of the design and development of sustainable architectural details is relevant within the wider context of the whole MSc AUBS.
2. Project highlights socio-economic imbalances within the cities of Central America and by locating them in a broader historical context, it contributes to the postcolonial critical theory of architecture. It aims to provide tools for the narration against systemic injustice. Furthermore, the intersections of design, philosophy and art within the project framework allows for exploration of innovative approaches both for the architectural design as well as theory production. Finally, set in the impoverished neighbourhood, it investigates low-tech, affordable building technology that is both sustainable and grants inhabitants self-sufficiency.